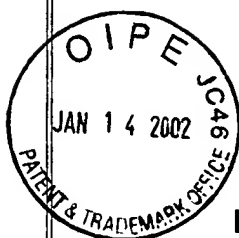


1646



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 02481.1671-01

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Franz-Josef RUBRÖDER et al.

Group Art Unit: 1646

Application No.: 09/991,964

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR THE STABILIZATION  
OF PROTEINS IN COMPLEX  
MIXTURES DURING THEIR STORAGE  
IN AQUEOUS SOLVENTS

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1, and add the following new claims 23-77:

23. A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding  
an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective  
concentration of the protein during storage, wherein the effective concentration  
does not decrease by more than about 7%.

24. The process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the effective concentration does not  
decrease by more than about 3%.

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